

## BOOK REVIEW

LYNNE CHAPMAN, NOELENE DRAGE, DI DURSTON, JENNY JONES, HILLARY MERRIFIELD, AND BILLY WEST. 2008. **Tea Roses: Old Roses for a Warm Climate.** (ISBN 9781877058677, hbk.). Rosenberg Publishing Pty Ltd, P.O. Box 6125, Dural Delivery Centre, New South Wales 2158, Australia. (**Orders:** www.rosenbergpub.com.au, 61-2-9654-1502, 61-2-9654-1338 fax). \$59.95, 240 pp., color photographs, glossary, appendices, bibliography, index, 9 1/4" × 11 1/4".

This beautiful book is presented by six ladies who love roses with a passion and realized the lack of true history of the tea rose in Australia. The tea rose or Tea-Scented China rose was hidden in China for centuries. They were brought to Europe in about 1820 and later to Australia. They have been planted, studied, and hybridized through the years, losing and gaining favor over and over again.

With over two hundred pages covering every aspect of the tea rose, this book is a scientific work and just fascinating for a rose lover. The roses are discussed in detail, from the horticultural and botanical facts to the unique history. Sixty-five teas are presented in all, each with a list of distinguishing features, cultivation background, location, and the most gorgeous photos. The photography is quite fantastic and is mostly provided by the authors as both beautiful floral close-ups and broader plant views. Pictures of paintings and other printed recordings of the roses round out the visuals of this carefully crafted work.

Of additional note is the authors' account of current studies to distinguish true descendents from mere family extensions. Tea rose "imposters" are discussed and a "What not to grow" list from 1922 is given.

A book for the beauty of the rose and a book for the factual study of the rose, *Tea Roses* should strike a chord with a variety of readers.—*Elaine Bell, Volunteer, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.*